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Southern Regional Research Laboratory
New Orleans, Louisiana
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To: Director and Laboratory Staff
From: Survey and Appraisal
Subject: SURVEY NOTES

FARM SITUATION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETING LOWER IN 1949

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in 1949 came to 27.5 billion dollars, which was 10 percent less than in 1948. Prices of farm products were down 13 percent on the average, and this drop was only partly offset by a small increase in the total volume of sales.

Crop receipts, amounting to 12.6 billion dollars, was down 7 percent. The amount received from livestock and livestock products totaled 14.9 billion dollars, 12 percent below their 1948 level. Price declines on the average were a little smaller for crops than for livestock, although a 5-percent rise in crop marketings was an important offsetting factor.

Farm Income Situation, B. A. E., January 1950, p. 2.

COTTON LINT

15.9 MILLION BALES OF 1949 COTTON GINNED BY MARCH 20

The Bureau of the Census reports that prior to March 20 of this year ginnings of cotton from the 1949 crop totaled 15,900,502 running bales. To the same date last year 14,580,279 bales of the 1948 crop had been ginned, and two years ago ginnings of 11,557,138 bales of the 1947 crop had been reported.

Report on Cotton Ginning, Bureau of the Census, March 20, 1950.

SPINDLE ACTIVITY UP DURING 4-WEEK PERIOD IN FEBRUARY

Spindle activity increased slightly during the 4-week period in February. Cotton consumption for February was about the same as January with stocks dropping from 11,725 thousand bales to 10,055 thousand bales.

Table 1.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills

	February 1950 3/	January 1950 3/	December 1949 4/	February 1949 4/
Consumption, average per working day, bales 2/	37,592	37,651	34,953	32,546
On hand, 1000 bales	10,055	11,725	12,333	9,118
Active spindle hours, billions	9.2	9.1	9.2	8.0
Spindle activity, percent of capacity 1/	133.4	133.0	124.7	112.3

1/ Includes activity on fibers other than cotton totaling 0.3 to 0.6 billion spindle hours for each month shown.
2/ Number of working days per month: February 1949, 19-2/3 days (calendar month); December 1949, 21 days (calendar month); January 1950, 19-1/2 days (4 weeks); and February 1950, 19-2/3 days (4 weeks).
3/ Based on 4-week periods.
4/ Calendar months.
From Bureau of the Census reports.

COTTON HIGHER PRICED THAN RAYON STAPLE DURING EARLY MONTHS OF 1950

The delivered-at-mill price of Middling 15/16-inch cotton on March 16 was 2.32 cents higher than the equivalent viscose staple price and 3.91 cents less than the acetate staple equivalent price. The price of cotton declined slightly from February to March 16. The price for cloth from 1 pound of cotton (average 17 constructions) rose from 69.07 cents in January to 69.59 cents in February, while mill margins declined from 37.90 cents to 37.48 cents.

Table 2.- Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple and cotton fabrics, and cotton mill margins in cents

	Mar. 16, 1950	Feb. 1950	Jan. 1950	Dec. 1949	Feb. 1949
Cotton, Middling 15/16" delivered at mills, lb.	33.47	33.57	32.76	31.93	34.41
Rayon, viscose staple equivalent price 1/, lb.	31.15	31.15	31.15	31.15	32.93
Rayon, acetate staple equivalent price 1/, lb.	37.38	37.38	37.38	37.38	42.72
Cotton fabrics, average 17 constructions					
Price for cloth from 1 lb. of cotton 2/	-	69.59	69.07	68.46	64.56
Mill margins 3/	-	37.48	37.90	38.05	32.39
Sheeting, 37" 4.00, yd. 4/	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.50	16.50
Osnaburg, 36" 2.35, yd. 5/	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.88	21.25
Printcloth, 38-1/2" 5.35, yd. 4/	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.13	15.00

1/ Cost to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x .89).
2/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable waste. (Cotton Branch, P.M.A.).
3/ Difference between cloth prices and price (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, P.M.A.).
4/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter.
5/ From Daily News Record.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT

NEW SLASHER NOW ON MARKET

A small multi-purpose slasher, developed and perfected by the Callaway Mills Co., Lagrange, Ga., has been placed on the market by the West Point Foundry and Machine Company of West Point. The slasher will produce a full width warp of any possible number of ends per inch and total number of ends from a minimum quantity of yarn and with a minimum amount of waste, time, and cost. It requires no warping or beaming, taking its yarn supply from individual packages and delivering a sized warp ready for the loom with as little as 15 to 20 pounds of yarn. The full space required, without the creel, is less than 10 x 13 feet. This machine should prove especially useful to all textile mills and research laboratories, as it makes practical the processing of small lots of yarn and thus considerably reduces the expense of short runs for experimental purposes. A sectionalized loom beam makes it possible to cut out a section of warp at any time for sampling (and also to use within the same warp yarns that vary as to construction and treatment).

Southern Textile News, March 11, 1950, p. 12.

COTTON PRODUCTS

BAGS: NEW COTTON FLOUR BAGS CHEAPEST TO USE IN 1950

During the first quarter of 1950, new cotton flour bags were cheaper to use than either paper or burlap. On March 15th, the net cost of using new cotton flour bags was $.40 per thousand less than paper and $54.90 less than burlap. New cotton flour bags sold for $238.75 per thousand in March; burlap, $243.65 per thousand; and paper $94.15 per thousand. Prices on once-used cotton and burlap flour bags dropped $5 per thousand from February to March. New and second-hand paper bag quotations were the same during the first three months of 1950.

Table 3.- Mid-month prices of 100 pound flour bags

(Dollars per thousand)

	March 1950	February 1950	January 1950	March 1949
Prices, new, St. Louis 1/				
Cotton	238.75	239.00	239.00	237.00
Burlap	243.65	243.65	243.85	215.75
Paper	94.15	94.15	94.15	114.05
Prices, second-hand, New York				
Cotton, once used 2/	150.00	155.00	155.00	140.00
Cotton, bakery run 3/	105.00	100.00	100.00	110.00
Burlap, once used 2/	100.00	105.00	110.00	115.00
Burlap, bakery run 3/	110.00	105.00	100.00	105.00
Paper, bakery run 3/	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
Difference				
Cotton, new minus once-used	88.75	84.00	84.00	97.00
Cotton, new minus bakery run	133.75	129.00	139.00	127.00
Burlap, new minus once-used	143.65	138.65	133.85	100.75
Burlap, new minus bakery run	133.65	138.65	143.85	110.75
Paper, new minus bakery run	89.15	89.15	89.15	104.05

1/ Cotton, 37" 4.00 yd. sheeting cut 43" unprinted; burlap, 36" 10 oz. cut 43" unprinted; paper, 18 x 4-1/2 x 36-3/4" unprinted; all l.c.l. shipments. No allowance made for quantity or cash discounts. From a large bag manufacturer.
2/ From a large second-hand bag dealer.
3/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

FABRICS: P. M. A. ISSUES REPORT ON COTTON IN FABRICS

After two years study, the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. D. A., has issued a report on the qualities and quantities of cotton used in manufacturing the major types of cotton fabrics. Fabrics studied were plain print cloth, wide sheeting, narrow sheeting, denim, drill, duck, osnaburg, carded broadcloth, combed broadcloth and lawn. These 10 fabrics ordinarily account for about one-third of the cotton consumed. Among most of the fabrics studied, no sharp differentiation was found in the average grade of cotton used in their manufacture. Changes in price of the fabric had little effect on the demand for denim and narrow sheeting as based on average conditions during the same 20 years for which data were available; but they affected somewhat the demand for wide sheeting and print cloth.

Daily News Record, March 2, 1950, p. 16.

LINEN SUPPLY PRODUCTS: 109 THOUSAND BALES USED IN THESE PRODUCTS IN 1948

According to the National Cotton Council, there were 109 thousand bales of cotton used in linen supply products during 1948. On a square yard basis, 108 million linear yards of fabric were used for these products.

Table 4.- Estimated consumption of textiles in rental supply products, United States, 1948, by major end uses

Use	Quantity used	Cotton consumption
	1,000 square yards	Bales
Aprons, except tea	19,100	23,500
Aprons, tea	250	100
Coats	8,550	10,500
Coveralls	450	500
Dresses	9,000	6,000
Frocks	950	500
Gowns	1,550	1,000
Hair cloths	1,100	2,000
Napkins	5,650	5,000
Pants	3,050	4,000
Pillowcases	950	500
Sheets	6,500	5,000
Spreads	17	30
Tablecloths	4,600	3,000
Towels		
Bar, glass, etc	18,550	18,000
Barber	7,200	7,000
Bath and Massage	2,800	5,000
Hand	12,500	12,000
Roller, continuous	5,550	5,500
TOTAL	108,317	109,130

"Cotton in the Linen Supply Industry," National Cotton Council, Dec. 1949, p.5.

TIRE FABRIC: PRICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH ABOUT THE SAME

The open market price of cotton tire fabric (12/4/2 passenger) was 64.5 cents per pound and 58.7 cents per square yard on March 1, compared with 61.5-61.8 cents per pound and 48.6-48.8 cents per square yard for 1650/2 rayon fabric. Rayon truck tire fabrics for February and March were unchanged.

Table 4.- Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabric, March 1 and February 1, 1950

Fabric	Cord	Fabric weight per sq.yd. 1/	Price per pound		Price per sq.yd.	
			Mar. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Feb. 1
		Pounds	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Passenger car tires						
Cotton fabric	12/4/2	.91	64.5	64.5	58.7	58.7
Rayon fabric	1650/2	.79	61.5-61.8	61.5	48.6-48.8	48.6
Truck tires						
Rayon fabric	1100/2	.62	64.0	64.0	39.7	39.7
Rayon fabric	1650/2	.78	61.5	61.5	48.0	48.0
Rayon fabric	2200/2	.82	60.5	60.5	49.6	49.6

1/ These are typical fabric weights and vary somewhat for different tire manufacturers.

Based on reports from independent rubber companies.

TIRE FABRIC: ONLY 37 PERCENT OF TIRE CORD MADE OF COTTON IN 1949

Cotton tire cord and fabric comprised only 37 percent of the 447 million pound production in 1949, compared to 54 percent in 1948; 60 percent in 1947 and 1945; and 97 percent in 1939. The 1949 fourth quarter production of cotton tire cord and fabric was 29.7 million pounds, with rayon tire cord totaling 72.9 million pounds.

Table 5.- Production of cotton and rayon tire cord and fabric, United States, for specified years

(Million pounds)

Year	COTTON				RAYON AND NYLON			Grand total
	Tire cord: fabrics woven	Chafer & all other fabrics	Tire cord not woven	Total	Cord & other fabrics	Tire cord not woven	Total	
1939	146.0	17.4	97.1	260.5	8.8 2/	3/	8.8 2/	269.3
1941	183.4	1/	57.0	240.4	18.3 2/	3/	18.3 2/	258.7
1942	125.7	32.8	64.6	223.1	25.0 2/	3/	25.0 2/	248.1
1943	148.5	36.4	54.5	239.4	41.3	4.8	46.1	285.5
1944	155.9	44.9	64.4	265.2	95.0	7.2	102.2	367.4
1945	160.8	52.9	63.4	277.1	181.9	3/	181.9	459.0
1946	162.9	73.7	74.6	311.2	213.1	3/	213.1	524.3
1947	195.6	70.7	79.2	345.5	206.2	23.5	229.7	575.2
1948	166.8	65.8	59.3	291.9	250.5	3/	250.5	542.4
1949	96.6	68.8	4/	165.4	281.7	3/	281.7	447.1
1st.qtr.	33.2	25.4	4/	58.6	68.9	3/	68.9	127.5
2nd.qtr.	29.1	13.6	5.3	48.0	68.3	3/	68.3	116.3
3rd.qtr.	16.6	11.1	1.3	29.0	56.0	15.6	71.6	100.6
4th.qtr.	17.7	11.9	.2	29.8	59.9	13.0	72.9	102.7

1/ Included with "Tire cord not woven."
2/ Trade estimate.
3/ Included with "Rayon cord and other fabric."
4/ Included with cotton "Chafers and all other fabrics."
Bureau of Census Reports and trade estimates.

COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

NYLON: ALL-NYLON SHIRTS LOSING OUT TO PART-RAYON BLENDS

According to trade sources, the failure of all-nylon men's shirtings to live up to expectations is leading shirt manufacturers to experiment with new combinations of part-nylon or part-rayon fabrics. Research on nylon fabric is being carried on to overcome the following objections: transparency of the fabric, comparative lack of absorbency and porosity, claims of "no ironing" have not stood the test, and price in comparison with other high quality shirts.

The use of nylon still provides certain advantages such as wearability, quick drying, and ease in washing. However, consumer dissatisfaction with the less desirable properties may cause the disappearance of the all-nylon shirt from the market.

Manufacturers are believed to be seeking looser woven fabrics which will increase absorbency and porosity. Also, with a part-rayon fabric, it is believed possible to develop a chalk-like pigment which will not have the transparency of nylon.

Journal of Commerce, March 1, 1950, p.14.

RAYON: ENKA TO RAISE OUTPUT BY 10 MILLION POUNDS

According to the American Enka Corporation, they will shortly undertake an $8,750,000 program of expansion designed to increase the company's output of textile yarn by approximately 10 million pounds. Construction of additions to the Lowland, Tennessee, plant will begin at an early date, and it is contemplated that a second step in the program of expansion will be undertaken at both Enka, N. C., and Lowland plants around the end of 1950.

Journal of Commerce, March 9, 1950, p. 12.

RAYON: INDUSTRIAL RAYON TIRE CORD OUTPUT UP 5 MILLION POUNDS

According to a report to the stockholders of the Industrial Rayon Company, added facilities, which have expanded the tire yarn capacity of the company by another 5 million pounds, are now complete. The total productive capacity of the company in all divisions is now approximately 85 million pounds per year.

The report further stated that the Industrial Rayon Company had a net income of $9,577,000 on net sales of $49,700,000. Research and development expenditures totaled $1,000,000, or 2 percent of the net sales.

Annual Report, 1949, of Industrial Rayon Corp., pp. 3, 5.

RAYON: MAY REPLACE COTTON YARN FOR BICYCLE TIRES IN THE FUTURE

Tire manufacturers are inquiring about the desirability of using rayon instead of cotton for bicycle tires. At the present time, cotton tire cord is most frequently used for such tires. As rayon tire cord does not meet the test requirements for bicycle tires now, research and development must precede any attempted major change-over.

Journal of Commerce, February 27, 1950, p. 14.

SILK: WASHING AID SEEN READY SOON AS RESULT OF RESEARCH

According to the International Silk Association of Zurich Switzerland, research undertaken is now sufficiently advanced to indicate that certain problems connected with the laundering of silk articles have been solved. It is claimed that products made of silk fabric would have no trace of yellowing, yet retaining both color and strength of the fabric, more than is possible with types of soap now generally in use.

Daily News Record, February 14, 1950, p. 32.

WOOL: OUTPUT IN 1949 AT LOWEST LEVEL IN HISTORY

United States production of shorn and pulled wool in 1949 was only 253,350,000 pounds, its lowest level in history. The 1948 output came to 280,524,000 pounds, while the 1938-47 average was 407,844,000 pounds. Of the 1949 total, 216,950,000 pounds were shorn and 36,400,000 pounds pulled. Pulled wool production in 1949 dropped 10 million pounds from 1948, an estimated 44 percent below the 10-year average and the lowest on official Government records.

Daily News Record, March 2, 1950, p. 1.

WOOL: CONSUMPTION DECLINED IN 1949

Consumption of raw wool, on a scoured basis, totaled 505 million pounds during 1949, or 233 million pounds less than the 1946 peak year but still substantially higher than the 397 million pounds used in 1939. Consumption of apparel and carpet wool totaled 343 and 162 million pounds, respectively, in 1949, compared to 485 and 208 million pounds in 1948; 610 and 128 million pounds in 1946; and 293 and 103 million pounds in 1939.

Table 6.- Consumption of wool of the sheep, scoured basis, United States, 1939 and 1945-49

Year	Apparel class			Carpet class, foreign			Grand total
	Woolen system	Worsted system	Total	Woolen system	Worsted system	Total	
1939	91.9	201.2	293.1	101.6	1.8	103.4	396.5
1945	283.3	305.9	589.2	53.1	2.8	55.9	645.1
1946	263.0	346.6	609.6	122.1	5.8	127.9	737.5
1947	189.6	336.3	525.9	164.4	7.9	172.3	698.2
1948	165.8	319.4	485.2	201.1	6.8	207.9	693.1
1949	139.2	204.0	343.2	158.6	3.2	161.8	505.0

Wool Manufactures, Bureau of Census

WOOL: USE OF WOOL DECLINES IN 1949

Use of all fibers in the woolen and worsted spinning industry declined from 882 million pounds in 1948 to 738 million pounds in 1949. Declines occurred in the use of wool, cotton, and jute, although mohair, rayon, and other fibers increased from 1948 to 1949.

Table 7.- Fibers consumed for spinning on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1948 and 1949

(Thousand pounds)

	1949	1948
TOTAL, ALL FIBERS	737,500	882,398
For yarns on woolen system	348,594	378,536
Wool, all types 1/	295,255	328,679
Mohair	5,130	1,428
Rayon	19,942	18,301
Cotton	20,737	25,742
Other	7,530	4,386
For yarns on worsted system	194,220	258,533
Wool, all types 1/	169,248	235,352
Mohair, common goat hair	12,396	11,788
Rayon	5,223	4,824
Other	7,353	6,569
For carpet and rug yarns on woolen system	193,467	240,951
Wool, all types 1/	186,601	234,218
Rayon	2,683	2,754
Jute	1,136	1,198
Other	3,047	2,781
For carpet and rug yarns on worsted system:		
Wool	1,219	4,378

1/ Use of shorn wool, pulled wool, reprocessed wool, reused wool, and tops.

Wool Manufactures, Bureau of Census, Dec. 1949, p. 7.

MOHAIR: 1949 PRODUCTION SMALLEST SINCE 1927

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, mohair production in the seven leading states in 1949 was 14,663,000 pounds, the smallest since 1927. The 1949 clip was 12 percent, or 1,958,000 pounds, below the 16,591,000 pounds produced in 1948 and 27 percent below the 1938-47 average of 19,966,000 pounds.

Value of mohair produced in 1949 amounted to $6,772,000, a decrease of $759,000 from the $7,531,000 in 1948. The drop in value was relatively smaller than that in production, as the average price per pound was approximately 1 cent higher for the 1949 clip. The average price per pound in 1949 was 46 cents, compared with 45 cents in 1948.

Daily News Record, March 3, 1950, p. 5.

MOHAIR: CONSUMPTION UP IN 1949

In 1949, mohair consumption totaled 15.2 million pounds, compared with 9.5 million pounds in 1948; 14.9 million pounds in 1947; 19.4 million pounds in 1946; 13.2 million pounds in 1945; and 18.2 million pounds in 1939. The use of mohair on the woolen system increased from 1.4 million pounds in 1948 to 5.1 million pounds in 1949, while on the worsted system its use increased from 8.1 million pounds to 10.1 million pounds.

Table 8.- Consumption of mohair on the woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, in the United States, 1939 and 1945-49

(Million pounds)

Year	Woolen system	Worsted system (tops)	Total 1/
1939	4.6	13.6	18.2
1945	5.4	7.8	13.2
1946	6.7	12.7	19.4
1947	3.1	11.8	14.9
1948	1.4	8.1	9.5
1949 2/	5.1	10.1	15.2

1/ Does not include floor coverings as separate data were not available for these years.
2/ Preliminary.

Wool Manufactures, Bureau of the Census

BURLAP: BAND-LABEL BAGS SUCCESSFUL IN TESTS

A paper band-label for textile bags which has been in common use for the past five or six years on cotton feed and flour sacks has now been successfully adapted to heavyweight burlap bags, according to Bemis Brothers Bag Company. Carefully studied test shipments of band-label burlap bags have been made by the Quaker Oats Co., working in cooperation with Bemis, and the new bag has found ready acceptance by all who handled it from the feed mill to the feed trough, the company said. The band-label burlap bag has proved so satisfactory that the Quaker Oats Co., after considerable experience with this bag in a relatively small territory and for one type of feed, has now expanded its use both geographically and to other feeds.

Journal of Commerce, March 3, 1950, p. 18.

VINYL FILM: GOODYEAR PRODUCTION IN 1949 14 MILLION SQUARE YARDS

According to Vice-president R. P. Dinsmore, the production of calendered vinyl film in 1949 by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. is set at 14 million square yards. He further announced the substitution of a new synthetic film for holland in all tire repair materials and the introduction of rayon into transmission belting.

Daily News Record, March 1, 1950, p. 28.

TEXTILE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

RHODE ISLAND TEXTILE SCHOOL BROADENS PROGRAM ON SYNTHETIC FIBERS

The challenge of synthetic fibers in the field of education has been met by a broad program set up by the Division of Textiles, Rhode Island School of Design. While the school has for several years been well equipped with woolen and worsted yarn and cloth manufacturing equipment, it has now added a pilot plant which will process into yarn any natural or staple synthetic fiber, as well as blends of all fibers. The new equipment and machines already installed and those still to come show the engineering skill and present day planning of machinery builders alert to future needs. This is the first time that such equipment has been assembled as a unit, and the flexibility built into the machines and the nature of the installation itself make possible a broad basic educational program as well as practical industrial research for the industry.

Journal of Commerce, March 1, 1950, p. 14.

NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL TO TABULATE ALL RESEARCH INFORMATION ON COTTON

According to Dr. Leonard Smith of the National Cotton Council, they have started cataloguing all cotton research knowledge in line with the recommendations proposed at the Council's last cotton research clinic meeting. The Council will compile and publish periodic reports of all cotton textile research activities. The objective would be to make available not only current research efforts but also unpublished and possibly obscure information which might be helpful to researchers interested in cotton.

Journal of Commerce, February 24, 1950, p. 14.

OILSEEDS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

DOMESTIC FATS AND OILS PRODUCTION TO REMAIN AT NEAR-RECORD LEVELS

Production of fats and oils from domestic materials (including oil equivalent of exported oilseeds) in January-September 1950 probably will be about as large as the 8.5 billion pounds produced a year earlier. Output of butter, lard, and inedible tallow and greases will be larger, but the production of edible vegetable oils will be smaller. Exports of shelled peanuts will be much smaller than in January-September 1949. Production of soybean and cottonseed oils is likely to decline materially in July-September, compared with a year earlier, unless the soybean crop again matures unusually early, as it did last year, and unless the yield of cottonseed per acre is exceptionally high.

The Demand and Price Situation, February 1950, p.14.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF FATS AND OILS EXCEEDS PREWAR

World production of fats and oils in 1949, up 5 percent over 1948, exceeded the prewar level of production for the first time since the end of hostilities. Total production from all important vegetable and animal sources is estimated at just over 22 million short tons, compared with less than 21 million last year

and the 1935-39 average of 21.8 million. Increases occurred in all categories of edible fats and oils with animal fats and olive oil contributing most to the gains in 1949. The output of industrial oils declined somewhat largely because of smaller flaxseed crops in the United States and Canada.

Much of the increase in production since prewar has occurred in the U. S. and exports from this country during 1949 made the largest single contribution to the alleviation of the world shortage. Indications are that U. S. exports will decline somewhat during 1950 because of the intensified shortage of dollar exchange in importing countries.

Foreign Crops and Markets, March 6, 1950,p.138.

CORN: 1949 REFINING GAINS AT STALEY: STARCHES ADDED

A step up in production in the corn refining division of A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co. during the latter half of 1949 resulted in a 5 percent increase for the year over 1948, it was disclosed in the annual report to stockholders. A. E. Staley, Jr., president, states the company introduced several new industrial starches during 1949, although none as yet has been developed "to the point of outstanding interest." The firm expects to finish its corn refining plant modernization in 1950 with an additional expenditure of about $600,000.

Daily News Record, March 16, 1950, p. 16.

COTTONSEED: FURFURYL ALCOHOL A NEW SOURCE FOR PLASTICS SERIES

Demonstrating the ease and speed with which strong plastic articles can be made from furfuryl alcohol, a derivative of oat hulls, Dr. R. B. Seymour, executive vice president of the Atlas Mineral Products Co., Mertztown, Pa., and an assistant mixed a powder with the alcohol and before the eyes of the audience made a plastic pipe three inches in diameter. Later, during the course of the talk, the pipe was shown to have enough strength to support the weight of both men.

Furfuryl alcohol, which can also be made from cottonseed, is the base for a new series of plastics which can be used as adhesives of a corrosion-proof coating for steel, Dr. Seymour said.

Journal of Commerce, March 16, 1950, p. 17.

INDICATED CROP ACREAGES FOR 1950 ANNOUNCED

The Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics recently announced the indicated acreages of certain crops for the United States in 1950 based upon reports from farmers in all parts of the country on or about March 1 regarding their acreages plans for the 1950 season. Included in this report are crops which the Southern Laboratory is especially interested.

Table 9.- Indicated prospective plantings for United States, 1950

	Indicated 1950	1949	Average 1939-48	1950 as percent of 1949
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Corn, all	82,765	87,910	89,825	94.1
Flaxseed	4,027	5,199	3,869	77.5
Peanuts 1/	2,570	2,929	3,634	87.7
Rice	1,645	1,839	1,451	89.5
Sweetpotatoes	603	548	690	110.0
Soybeans 1/	13,500	11,409	12,059	118.3

1/ Grown alone for all purposes.

From: Crop Production, Crop Reporting Board, B.A.E., U.S.D.A.

VEGETABLE OIL AND MEAL PRICES HIGHER

Prices of edible vegetable fats and oils averaged slightly higher in February 1950 than in January, increasing rather sharply in the latter half of the month and continuing to increase moderately through March 13.

After substantial declines in February, most meal prices advanced anywhere from 50 cents to $7.62 per ton as of March 11.

Table 10.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals

	Mar. 1950	Feb. 1950 11/	Jan. 1950	Mar. 1949
		Cents per pound		
OILS 1/	Mar. 13			
Cottonseed oil	13.3	11.6	11.1	11.4
Peanut oil	14.8	14.0	13.4	14.4
Soybean oil	12.5	11.4	10.8	10.8
Corn oil	13.8	13.1	11.8	11.6
Coconut oil 2/	17.8	17.1	17.2	17.6
Linseed oil 3/	18.1	18.5	18.4	28.8
Tung oil 4/	27.5	28.1	28.1	21.6
		Dollars per ton		
MEALS 5/	Mar. 11			
Cottonseed meal 6/	58.00	56.62	59.00	56.75
Peanut meal 7/	59.00	51.38	63.35	62.50
Soybean meal 8/	63.00	59.75	65.50	67.40
Coconut meal 9/	58.00	58.63	58.50	66.30
Linseed meal 10/	64.00	63.50	69.30	64.90

1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except as noted. From Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter (daily quotations) and from Fats and Oils Situation, B.A.E. (monthly quotations).
2/ Crude, tanks, carlots, Pacific Coast. Three cents added to allow for tax on first domestic processing.
3/ Raw, drums, carlots, New York.
4/ Drums, carlots, New York.
5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotations) and Feed Situation, B.A.E. (monthly quotations).
6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis.
7/ 45 percent protein, S. E. Mills.
8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago.
9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles.
10/ 34 percent protein, Minneapolis.
11/ Preliminary.

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF EDIBLE PEANUTS CONTINUES ABOVE LAST SEASON

A total of 264 million pounds of shelled edible grade peanuts have been reported used domestically during the 1949-50 season through February. This is 19 million pounds or 8 percent larger than the 245 million pounds used through February last season. More peanuts are reported used for candy, peanut butter and miscellaneous products to February 28 this year than last, but about 2 million pounds less were used for salting.

Crushing of shelled peanuts this season to date amounted to 283 million pounds, an increase of 138 percent over the 119 million pounds crushed through February last season.

Table 11.- Shelled peanuts (raw basis) reported used domestically in primary products

Reported use	Sept. 1 through Feb. 28		Season, Sept. 1 - Aug. 31	
	1950	1949	1948-49	1947-48
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
TOTAL, all grades	547,544	364,115	710,596	627,252
Edible grades, total	264,183	244,798	484,431	493,266
Peanut candy 1/	69,037	55,889	107,181	119,814
Salted peanuts	61,348	63,437	120,018	117,155
Peanut butter 2/	128,275	122,484	250,184	250,858
Other products	5,523	2,988	7,048	5,439
Crushed for oil, cake and meal 3/	283,461	119,317	226,165	133,986

1/ Includes peanut butter made by manufacturers for own use in candy.
2/ Excludes peanut butter made by manufacturers for own use in candy.
3/ Includes ungraded or straight run peanuts.
From: Peanut Stocks and Processing, B.A.E., March 21, 1950.

PEANUTS: GROWERS TO GET MORE FEDERAL SUPPORT

A two price system for peanuts which will assure growers of a market for all the peanuts they care to produce is to be applied on the 1950 crop by the Department of Agriculture. The pricing system will be similar to that in operation during the early war years of 1941 and 1942, whereby a national acreage quota for growing peanuts is fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Those peanuts grown on the allotted acreage are to be supported by the Commodity Credit Corporation at 90 percent of parity through loans or purchase agreements. Peanuts grown on acreages in excess of allotment may be delivered by the grower to an agency designated by the Secretary for crushing. The farmer will receive the existing market price for the oil and meal content on the date of delivery.

Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter, March 20, 1950, p.3.

SOYBEAN: BORDEN IN PRODUCTION WITH NEW SOYBEAN PLANT

The Borden Company's newly-completed solvent extraction soybean processing plant at Waterloo, Iowa, is now in operation, it has been announced by Charles F. Kieser, Borden vice president in charge of special products division. The new plant includes a six-story steel-and-brick extraction building and a five-story brick building used to prepare the beans for extraction, and to process and pack the meal. Both structures are joined by a completely enclosed steel bridge 400 feet long and 41 feet above the ground. The bridge contains two large conveyors and all fuel and power lines. The solvent extraction plant, which cost an estimated $1.5 million, can process 250 tons of soybeans a day.

Feedstuffs, March 11, 1950, p. 61.

SOYBEANS: INCREASED SOLVENT EXTRACTION OF SOYBEANS REPORTED

A survey made jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, provides data on the quantity of soybeans processed by the various methods

in the 1945-48 crop years. Figures indicate the increasing trend toward solvent extraction which last season accounted for 40 percent of all soybeans crushed, as compared with 28 percent in the 1945-46 crop year and only 16 percent in 1943-44.

Table 12.- Soybeans: Quantity crushed, by types of processing equipment, crop years 1945-48; oil produced and oil yield per bushel for each process, crop years 1947-48

Year beginning Oct. 1	Screw press process		Solvent extraction process		Hydraulic press process		Total
	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity
	1,000 bu.	Percent	1,000 bu.	Percent	1,000 bu.	Percent	1,000 bu.
	Soybeans crushed						
1945	102,442	64.2	44,907	28.2	42,111	7.6	159,460
1946	108,744	63.9	45,224	26.6	16,271	9.5	170,239
1947	88,233	54.4	61,000	37.6	12,933	8.0	162,166
1948	101,535	55.3	72,733	39.6	9,351	5.1	183,659
	Crude oil produced						
1947	782,135	50.7	650,629	42.2	109,362	7.1	1,542,126
1948	929,778	51.4	795,964	44.1	81,111	4.5	1,806,853
	Oil yield per bushel						
	Pounds		Pounds		Pounds		Pounds
1947	8.86		10.67		8.46		9.51 1/
1948	9.16		10.94		8.67		9.84

1/ Average for crop for all types of processing.
From: Feedstuffs, March 4, 1950, p. 68.

NEW EXTRACTION METHOD PROMISES PURER, BETTER TASTING OILS

Purer, better tasting, and more economical flavoring oils for use in foods and perfumes were promised in a report by N. Wishnesfsky, Dr. M. B. Jacobs, and Dr. D. F. Othmer of Brooklyn Polytechnic. They described an extraction method, using a newly developed solvent, which can produce flavoring oils ten to thirty times stronger than those made by the present distillation process. The new method is also more economical and, because it does not involve the use of heat, no destruction of the delicate oils occurs, and the natural flavor is not impaired, Mr. Wishnefsky said.

Journal of Commerce, March 20, 1950, p. 11.

L I N T E R S A N D C E L L U L O S E

LINTERS: PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION LOWER; PRICES CONTINUE TO ADVANCE

Production of linters at oil mills during January totaled 193 thousand bales, compared with 203 thousand bales in December and 188 thousand in January a year ago, according to the Bureau of the Census. Production during the first six months of the current season totaled about 1,103 thousand bales, a record high. This exceeds the previous high of 1,056 thousand bales which was produced in the August-January period last season by over 4 percent.

Consumption of linters totaled 128 thousand bales in the four-week period ended February 25, 1950. This compares with 132 thousand bales in the four-week

January period and 119 thousand in the full month of February a year ago. Should the consumption rate of the first seven months be maintained for the remainder of the season, total linters used in 1949-50 would be about 1,640 thousand bales. At this level, 1949-50 consumption would be 17 percent larger than the 1,406 thousand bales consumed last season . Linters consumption in the past ten seasons (1939-48) averaged 1,265 thousand bales.

Total stocks in consuming establishments, public storage and warehouses, and at oil mills in January increased to 576 thousand bales compared with 568 thousand in December 1949 and 668 thousand bales in February 1949. Stocks of linters in the hands of bleachers increased during February but at the end of the month were 20 percent smaller than a year earlier.

The price of linters continued to rise with the greatest gains being registered in chemical grades. Prices of all grades of linters are the highest in over a year.

Table 13.- Cotton linters: Production, consumption by industries, stocks, and prices, United States, for specified months

	February 1950	January 1950	December 1949	November 1949	February 1949
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Production 1/	2/	193.0	203.0	235.0	159.4
Consumption 3/	127.7 4/	132.0	131.2	131.5	119.0
Quantity bleached	79.4	85.5	83.6	82.8	75.6
Other industries	48.3	46.5	47.6	48.7	43.4
Stocks 5/	2/	576.0	568.0	530.0	668.0
Prices:	Cents 6/	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
No. 2 grade, per lb.	10.91	10.60	10.02	9.86	7.66
No. 4 grade, per lb.	7.11	6.45	5.67	5.63	4.15
No. 6 grade, per lb.	3.89	3.09	2.26	2.02	2.79

1/ From Weekly Cotton Linters Review, PMA, Cotton Branch, U.S.D.A.
2/ Not available.
3/ From Facts for Industry, "Cotton and Linters," Bureau of the Census.
4/ From January 29 through February 25.
5/ Total stocks in consumer establishments, public storage and warehouses, and oil mills. Stocks at end of the month. From Facts for Industry, "Cotton Linters," Bureau of the Census.
6/ Preliminary.

CELLULOSE CONSUMPTION IN RAYON INDUSTRY DOWN; LINTERS' USE HIGHEST ON RECORD

According to the Rayon Organon (March 1950), consumption of cellulose by the rayon industry totaled 476,600 tons in 1949, of which 117,900 tons was linters pulp. The quantity of linters used was the highest on record, and comprised 25 percent of the total as compared with 19 percent in 1948. The Organon states that "Wood pulp was used almost exclusively in the production of the regular tenacity types of yarn and staple. Producers' practices varied, however, in the intermediate and high tenacity yarn type production, ranging from the use of 100 percent wood pulp, to blends of linters and wood pulp, and on to 100 percent linters pulp. It required the average use of 1.09 pounds of cellulose to produce a pound of finished

viscose or cuprammonium yarn or staple (including normal waste). In the acetate process, only about two thirds of the finished yarn or staple is cellulose, the balance being the acetyl radical."

Table 14.- Approximate quantities of linters pulp and wood pulp used in rayon by processes, United States, 1930-49

	Linters pulp	Wood pulp	Total	Linters pulp	Wood pulp	Total
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Percent	Percent	Percent
Processes						
1930	27	45	72	38	62	100
1935	51	86	137	37	63	100
1940	60	178	238	25	75	100
1942	39.5	280.5	320	12	88	100
1945	103	297	400	26	74	100
1946	105	323	428	25	75	100
1947	81	397	478	17	83	100
1948	104.5	435	539.5	19	81	100
1949	117.9	358.7	476.6	25	75	100
Viscose and cupra						
1945	80	245	325	25	75	100
1946	75	272	347	22	78	100
1947	49	320	369	13	87	100
1948	58.5	349	407.5	14	86	100
1949	77.2	290.2	367.4	21	79	100
Acetate						
1945	23	52	75	31	69	100
1946	30	51	81	37	63	100
1947	32	77	109	32	68	100
1948	46	86	132	35	65	100
1949	40.7	68.5	109.2	36	64	100

All prices and percentage data from Rayon Organon. Our estimates of quantities by viscose and cupra, and acetate processes.

PRICE OF PURIFIED LINTERS HIGHEST SINCE JULY 1948; WOOD PULP UNCHANGED

The February increase in the price of purified cotton linters to 10.5 cents per pound makes it the highest in 18 months, and very substantially above all qualities of wood pulp. Prices of all grades of dissolving wood pulp remained unchanged.

Table 15.- Average annual price of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1946-49, and quotations for specified months

(Cents per pound)

	Purified linters 1/	Wood pulp 2/		
		Standard viscose grade	High-tenacity viscose grade	Acetate & cupra grade
1946	9.50	5.60	5.85	6.15
1947	16.30	7.03	7.44	8.04
1948	11.25	7.93	8.44	9.20
1949	8.82	7.94	8.44	9.06
1949, November	8.00	7.50	8.05	8.55
1949, December	8.35	7.50	8.05	8.55
1950, January	9.35	7.50	8.05	8.55
1950, February	10.50	7.50	8.05	8.55

1/ Weighted averages, 1946-47. On 7 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. pulp plant. Average freight to users is 0.5 cent per pound. Prices supplied by a producer.

2/ Average of average monthly prices, 1946-49. Compiled from Rayon Organon and from letters to us from producer. Wood pulp prices are 10 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. domestic producing mill, full freight, and 3 percent transportation tax allowed Dec. 1, 1947 on; freight equalized with that Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3 percent backhaul charges, prior to December 1.

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS

CITRUS: FLORIDA GROWERS REAP BUMPER PROFITS AS PRICES HIT 30 YEAR HIGH

Indications are that Florida orange growers will wind up the season in June with a gross return close to $125 million against $77 million taken in during the 1948-49 growing year. A large part of this prosperity can be attributed to the frozen juice boom. Having started from scratch just five years ago, producers of the cold concentrate are absorbing one-third of Florida's 60-million box 1949-50 orange crop. Other factors helping to swell the demand are successive freezes for 2 years in California and the fact that some 90 percent of Florida's orange growers have banded together into a giant cooperative--Citrus Mutual--to set minimum prices. The minimums established last fall, however, have long been topped by steadily mounting bids from competing canners, fresh fruit packers and concentrate men.

Wall Street Journal, March 6, 1950, p. 1.

DRY CASEIN: PRODUCTION UP 41 PERCENT IN 1949

Dry casein production during 1949 totaled 20,265,000 pounds, a gain of 41 percent over 1948, but a decline of 43 percent under 1947, the Agricultural Department reported. Manufacturers' stocks of dry casein on Dec. 31, 1949, were 1,350,000 pounds, down 16 percent from a year earlier and 58 percent from the Dec. 31 average for the 1943-47 period. December production was 1,200,000 pounds, up 114 percent from a year earlier.

Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter, March 6, 1950, p. 66.

January production of dry casein was estimated at 1,400,000 pounds, the highest for the month since 1947, up 37 percent from a year earlier and 22 percent from the 1944-48 January average.

Daily News Record, March 9, 1950, p. 16.

PAPER: HARDWOOD PULP PROCESS DEVISED

A low cost method for making good quality pulp from hardwood was announced by the New York State College of Forestry. The new process will result in a $25 per ton reduction in the cost of making pulp for newsprint and other types of paper, according to Professors C. Earl Libby and Frederic W. O'Neal of the college. They explained that hardwood could be pulped at less than $40 a ton and could be substituted for ground spruce pulp which sells for $65 a ton. The quality of the hardwood pulp would match that of the spruce pulp.

The process has been covered by patent claims to protect the interests of sponsors of the research program. "If patents are granted," the professors said, "it is the intention of the sponsors to make processes so covered, generally available to the industry at nominal fees."

Journal of Commerce, Feb. 24, 1950, p. 3.

PYRETHRUM: UNION CARBIDE STARTS SYNTHETIC PYRETHRUM OUTPUT

Union Carbide and Carbon Corp. has started commercial production of the new powerful "synthetic pyrethrum" (the allyl homolog of Cinerin I). The official name is to be Allethrin, it was revealed at a meeting of press representatives at the Boyce-Thompson Institute Laboratories, Yonkers, N. Y.

Synthetic pyrethrum has now been developed for commercial use, utilizing raw materials in ample supply in this country. About a million pounds of chemical solids and liquids, including water, are handled for each 5,000 pounds of Allethrin or allyl cinerin, produced.

Journal of Commerce, Mar. 20, 1950, p. 11.

SISAL: USED TO MAKE BUILDING BLOCKS FROM SOIL

An unused portion of the sisal plant which remains after fibers have been removed for twine or rope making now yields a material which makes soil into high-quality building blocks. Soil blocks, stabilized with the sisal by-product, can be used in construction in the same way as cement or concrete blocks. Weatherproof and wear qualities of the blocks are satisfactory. Building costs can be cut 40 percent when stabilized soil blocks are used instead of those made with cement.

This is a development in Africa. An English chemical company has announced plans for 2 factories to produce the soil-stabilizing agent in Tanganyika and Kenya, two sisal growing areas.

Daily Mill Stock Reporter, Mar. 17,1950,p.2.

DU PONT TO BUILD NEW ADIPONITRILE FACILITY

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Del., is planning the construction of a new plant to double its facilities for the production of adiponitrile at Niagara Falls, N. Y. Work on the new building and manufacturing equipment will be started about the middle of this year and is expected to be completed late next year. The Niagara Falls operation produces adiponitrile from furfural, made in Memphis, Tenn., from agricultural by-products.

Oil, Paint & Drug Reporter, Mar. 13,1950, p. 4.

U. S. PLYWOOD ACQUIRES PROCESS TO MAKE 3-PLY PANEL FROM SHAVINGS

The U. S. Plywood Corporation has acquired a process for making a three-ply wood panel from chips and shavings, Lawrence Ottinger, president, announced. The process, which has already proved commercially successful in Europe, will permit the cost of the cheapest grades of the new panel to be about one-fourth to one-third cheaper than fir panels.

The panel, called Novopan, will be produced by the company at a plant to be built at Orangeburg, S. C. Scheduled to be in operation by the end of the year, it will have an initial capacity of 40 million to 50 million feet a year on a 3/8-inch basis. Novopan has a core of wood chips and the outside layers are made of shavings. The wood waste is treated with resin and then pressed under heat. It is claimed that Novopan can be readily worked into curved shapes, will take nails and screws easily, can be cut and sawed, sanded and planed, and will take paints, varnishes and other finishes. It is also said to have excellent non-warping qualities--especially important for doors.

Wall Street Journal, Mar. 17, 1950, p. 14.

LACTIC ACID FROM POTATOES AT REASONABLE COST

The Agriculture Department announced that potatoes are being processed at the Department's Eastern Regional Research Laboratory in Philadelphia to get lactic acid, an important chemical used widely in textile, tanning and other industries. It has been demonstrated, said Agriculture Secretary Brannon, that surplus or cull potatoes can be converted to lactic acid at a "reasonable cost."

In this process, the starch in ground, cooked potatoes is converted to sugars, and the sugars simultaneously are fermented to lactic acid. Nothing is added.

Daily News Record, March 7, 1950, p. 33.

SHELL OIL COMPANY RESEARCH TO COST $1.5 MILLION A MONTH

A record research program in 1950 will cost the Shell Oil Companies about $1,500,000 a month, it was revealed. The research fields which will receive major attention, according to H. S. M. Burns, president of Shell Oil Company, are the development of new chemicals from petroleum and the development of agricultural products.

Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter, March 20, 1950, p.4.